THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exports made from Export Processing Zones during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports from EPZs
1997-98	4817.30
1998-99	5252.48
1999-2000	6088.97 (Provisional)

(c) to (e) It was decided in 1992 not to set up any new EPZ under Government of India. However, Export Processing Zones can be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector.

Activities of Spices Board in A.P.

2455. SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the activities of the Spices Board in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether any steps have been take to explore new export markets for Andhra chillies by the Spices Board ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the unique flavour of Andhra chillies could be marketed abroad ;

(e) whether any marketing strategy has been evolved ; and

(f) the details of involvement of the Spices Board in the chilly market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Spices Board has undertaken a number of activities in Andhra Pradesh for improving export of chillies and turmeric, which include the following :—

— Quality improvement through regular training of growers, traders, officials of state NGOs and exporters.

— Supply of polythene sheets at subsidised cost.

— Assist growers for constuction of drying yards.

— Assist exporters in setting up-gradation of in-house laboratories.

— Assist in acquiring ISO in chilly and turmeric processing/ manufacturing units.

— Assist in adopting HACCP quality control system.

— Award of Spice House Certificate for processing units.

— Award of logo for consumer packed spices.

— Renovation of a godown of Agriculture Market Committee at Guntur.

— Strengthening of the Central Agmark Lab in Guntur

— Opening of a regional office at Hyderabad and a zonal office at Guntur.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Spices Board to explore new export markets for spices including Andhra chillies include participation in international fairs, promotion of Indian cuisine abroad, assisting exporters in product promotion, inviting and sending business delegations, assisting exporters in the production of brochures of international quality, conducting World Spice Congresses etc.

(d) and (e) Chillies of Andhra Pradesh as such do not have a separate identity in the international market. The marketing strategy adopted by the Spices Board is based on the pungency and colour providing strengths of Indian chillies including the chillies of Andhra Pradesh.

(f) The Board has no direct involvement in the chilly market. The activities of the Board are oriented towards improving the exports of spices including chillies.

Second Round of Negotiations of WTO

2456. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the second round of negotiations of WTO will be comprising Agriculture etc., which will be the most contentious issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how do Government prepare themselves for such negotiations?